

# LOCAL I-S NEWS

## for department store workers

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MARCH 15, 1956

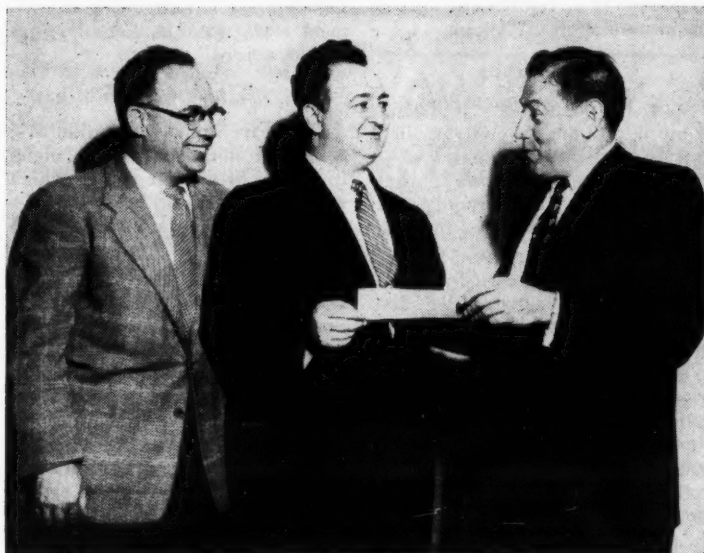
### 1-S Continues Aid for 55,000 At Westinghouse

Local 1-S Shop Stewards, having turned in more than \$3,000 in their first round of collections for the 55,000 IUE members on strike at Westinghouse plants across the nation, began their second appeal for funds late in February. This is in addition to 1-S help previously given IUE for both the Arma and Westinghouse strikes.

In a special letter to the Stewards, President Sam Kovenetsky said, "The strike at Westinghouse goes on. The company, doing its best to break the union, continues to reject every reasonable offer that might lead to a settlement. . . ."

"The strike remains solid—the only hope the company has is to

(Continued on page 3)



Pres. Sam Kovenetsky (right) presents check for \$3,000 from 1-S members to IUE's District 4 Pres. Weihrach and Secy-Treas. Jennings.

### No Progress in Negotiations; Will Tie Strings to Offer, Macy Says; All-Out Mobilization Under Way

As February bowed out the pace of negotiations and the output of words was stepped up. There were still no signs of solid accomplishment as the April 1st contract expiration date neared. As wages, hours, health, welfare and pensions were nearing their point on the agenda, the Union moved to convene its Strategy Committee and its Steward body to plan a full mobilization of manpower and resources.

Starting a meeting late in February, Macy's chief negotiator and Vice President Fred Fischer told President Sam Kovenetsky, Vice Presidents Phil Hoffstein and Bill Atkinson and the Negotiating Committee, that, "I think I should tell you that the company does plan to make an offer".

He then went on to recite a long

FLASH!!!

President Sam Kovenetsky has been proposed as a member of the Wage Board to hold hearings on minimum wages for department store workers. Story on Page 3.

list of strings he plans to tie to such an offer. "We (management) are not here to negotiate or write contracts," Mr. Fischer said at a later point. "We're here to make money!"

Deflation

Mr. Fischer's expansive mood of "offer" making deflated quickly and changed to a drawn-out series of "No's" as President Sam Kovenetsky told him that, "You will note that many of our demands call for other than dollars and cents adjustment. They call for changes in policy and past practices. Let's see if we can talk these out so that we can get the thinking of the company."

Mr. Fischer made it clear that at least for the present he is opposed to the principle of arbitrating all disputes arising out of the contract; that he thinks the company's job review system is fair and impartial; that the Union-won security clause is the best and "most elaborate" there is and should not be improved; that emptying trucks is "part of a clerk's work", that trucks are "clean and safe" and a person shouldn't get dirty, but if he does "he should have time to wash up";

that overtime work is voluntary, but it's a conspiracy if a group of workers decides not to work overtime; that Macy's should have sole right to determine the number of full timers, part timers and Saturday onlies they use; that the company should not be denied the right to change schedules; and that he, Mr. Fischer, believes that he can have his cake and eat it!

Macy Demands

With his readiness to "make an offer" looking pretty shopworn after the vigorous session at which most members of the Committee attacked his position, Mr. Fischer produced four Macy demands for revision of the contract.

Topping the list is one which says, "For the purpose of furthering the progress of the Macy organization and for obtaining a more harmonious relationship between executives and staff employees the restriction on executives performing work normally con-

(Continued on page 3)

### UNION TO NAME PENSION, SICK HEALTH GOALS

One of the major aims of Local 1-S in current negotiations is to win a plan that will provide improved Health Plan, Sick Leave and Pension benefits through a fund financed by Macy's and administered jointly by the Union and the company.

The firm of insurance consultants retained by Local 1-S to determine the cost of such a comprehensive program has recently submitted their figures, President Sam Kovenetsky announced.

"The Union will now translate those figures into an hourly percentage of payroll which it will call upon Macy's to pay into the fund", the President said.

### DISTRICT COUNCIL NUMBER FOUR, IUE - CIO

International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, CIO

MILTON WEIHRACH, PRESIDENT  
GEORGE R. COLLINS, VICE-PRESIDENT  
PAUL JENNINGS, SECRETARY-TREASURER

LEO H. SMITH, SR., SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

TRUSTEES

AL KURNOW  
JOHN SWEENEY  
WARREN GLASCOE



21 FULTON STREET  
Newark 2, New Jersey  
TELEPHONE MARKET 2-6030  
N. Y. PHONE: WHITEHALL 4-7048

February 27, 1956

Mr. Sam Kovenetsky, President  
Local 1-S RWDSU, CIO  
290 Seventh Avenue  
New York 1, New York

Dear Sam:

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the splendid assistance your local is giving to the Westinghouse strikers. I know that I speak for all of them when I say that the consistent support of 1-S has been one of the strongest props in helping the strikers maintain their unity over the last 4 months.

These are trying days for all of us in the IUE; but, your pledge of continued support makes it a lot easier for us to face the future.

Warmest fraternal regards,

*Milt*

MILTON WEIHRACH  
President

MW:g

IUE acknowledges help given by 1-S members to Westinghouse strikers. Collections and strike both go on.

Official Notice

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**CHANGED TO TUES. APRIL 10, 7:00 P.M.**  
MANHATTAN CENTER  
34th Street & 8th Avenue  
\$2 Assessment to the Welfare Fund for unexcused absence  
Admission by 1956 Union Card only



## BRANCH STORE NEWS

### PARKCHESTER



Fay Abbate

Is there a Senor hereabouts? For who can tell how pleasurable a cruise to South America will be without one. Flo Ferraini of P19 will soon discover—and tell us (we hope). Have fun, Flo! . . . Roses are red and carats are diamonds, as George Cooper of P9 became engaged to Dolores Arra of Brooklyn. . . . “We had a ball,” said the thirteen dolls of P2 after dinner at the Stockholm Room, followed by a musical. The occasion was a baby shower tendered recently for Evelyn Lipson, of the Vault. The party was livened by a lady named “B” of P7 . . . A baby shower for Doris Bleidner of Cosmetics also provided a good time . . . A Leap Year baby was born to P3’s Grandma Ellen Hanna’s daughter June, who lives in Sunny California . . . The stork is making preparation for a visit to Betty Anderson of the Packing Unit, in the near future . . . Gertrude Davies of Furniture recently became a Granny . . . Florence Stock became a Grandmother for the SIXTH TIME! . . . Our heartfelt sympathy to Lillian Miller of P5 for a great loss . . . Response to the collection for Westinghouse strikers has been wonderful. Most people agree that it is a good feeling to help others who have shown that they are fully deserving of all we can do for them. Let’s keep the collection going!

### FLATBUSH

Janet Berman, Service Desk, has received the highest award ever given a woman by the Boy Scouts of America for her three years of outstanding work as Leader, Den Mother and Instructor. She is secretary of the Coordinating Council of Scouting of the Boro Park YM and YWHA . . . Condolences to Esther Sobel, Coats, on the loss of her father . . . Mae Levy, Men’s Department, is recuperating from a heart attack. Get well fast, Mae . . . Mildred Ornstein, Bargain Salon, who suffered an injury when hit by an auto, is nursing her bruises at home. Hope you’ll be back with us hale and hearty—and keep away from cars . . . Rose Karin, Flyer, pleads that she’s not a grandmother, graduate or anything else that will get her name in these columns. She wants to know how to get one’s name in print. Here’s the answer: ROSE KARIN. See? . . . What’s the rumor being heard around the store about Ann Bowen of Children’s? . . . Helen Jacobs, Service Desk, out ill. Get well soon, Helen . . . Negotiations for a new contract are now in process. It is too early to predict the outcome, but at this point it is necessary for all of us to stand solidly behind our negotiators. There are many ways to show our Union loyalty. Attending meetings, adhering to Union regulations and speaking up when your cause is just are some of the means we can use. In this manner we can hope to win better wages, better working conditions and other benefits we seek. Stand behind your negotiators at all times. It pays!

### WHITE PLAINS

Congratulations on the collection for the Westinghouse strikers. Be helping them, we help ourselves. And let’s remember that the collections will continue for the duration of the strike. We, as well as the rest of the labor movement, have a tremendous obligation to the 55,000 workers who have been pounding the picket lines for more than 150 days to show their management—and all others—that labor can and will resist any union-busting attempts. . . . Happy birthday to Jim Heleringer, who was presented with number five (boys, that is)! It is now a homegrown basketball team. Next??? . . . Good luck to Millie Albanese (Shoes), who is leaving to await the stork . . . Joan Marshall (Robb), of the Service Desk, is the mother of a baby boy . . . So sorry that Bea McGowan (Shoes), Julia Burke (Fabrics) and Eva Manley (TO) are out ill. Hurry back, gals—we miss you . . . Wedding bells for Mary Walker’s (Fabrics) daughter. Lovely bride—lucky groom . . . Terrific job done by Administration Tony Puca, our Executive Board and Beauty Salon staff in the fight for reinstatement on the job for Josephine Partee. Shop Stewards Michael Peluso and Paula Paniccia and a strong, all-out fight by our Executive Board righted this injustice. Let this be a lesson that alone Macy’s can discharge, even without cause. United, your fight is everybody’s fight and the Union certainly does it best for you!

### JAMAICA

The thing that is uppermost in almost everybody’s mind these days is what is happening around the negotiating table. The demands that our committee is fighting for are important to each and every one of us. They effect our working conditions, our security—and the pay we get for the work we do. Given a chance to do so, it is most probable that every man and woman in the store would make a pledge of full support to the committee and the Union. We are waiting for reports of progress—and if there are none, we are waiting to be told what needs to be done to convince Macy’s that we mean business. We would all sooner see the company come to satisfactory terms without our having to fight. But if they don’t talk turkey they should at least know that we have the will, the know-how and the determination to press for the things we want, need and have earned! . . . Part of this spirit is shown in the way the people have been helping out the workers on strike at the Westinghouse plants. For lots of us it is not easy to dig in for a dollar bill. But it’s a lot easier than pounding the sidewalk for five months. All we have to do is try to imagine ourselves in their place and the giving becomes a lot easier. We know what we would expect from our friends if we were in the same boat—and so, we give, and give, and give some more. It’s the union way—and the only way—that any group of workers can win against a company doing its best to ruin them and their union!

# Board Hears Negotiations Report; Backs Call to Fight for \$1.25 Base

The Local 1-S Executive Board, at its meeting on February 29th, heard its chairman, Vice President Phil Hoffstein report on the progress of negotiations; was congratulated for its work in support of the Westinghouse strike; was urged to begin planning for the next round in the fight to win wage law coverage for department store workers; upheld a Trial Committee report; heard reports from its Anti-Discrimination and Political Action Committees; and heard President Kovenetsky urge a “down-the-line tightening up of the organization”.

### Negotiations

Vice President Phil Hoffstein, in biting and angry tones, assailed Macy’s conduct in negotiations.

“We’ve gotten a glimpse of what is ahead. Macy’s has not only said ‘No’ to all our demands, but has given us their own counter-demands.

“It is my personal view,” the Vice President said, “that we are in for a fight. How can you hope to negotiate with a company that tries to disregard every point on which you base your argument? How can you reason with them when they tell you not to compare yourself with the warehouse, because it is not part of the ‘unit’, then have them turn around and tell you not to compare Branch Stores with Herald Square, but with their neighborhoods!

“From this, and from what has happened at other sessions (see Page 1), it is clear that Macy’s doesn’t want to settle anything, and actually wants to knock out of our contract things for which we have struck to win and to keep!”

### Mobilization

Against the background of “No” answers and a rapidly approaching contract expiration date (April 1), Vice President Hoffstein announced that the Union’s two key mobilization committees (Strategy and Finance) would begin meeting on a regular basis starting March 8th to prepare for “an all-out fight if need be.”

### Westinghouse

In his report, Board Chairman Hoffstein praised the work of the Board in helping to produce “a wonderful response to our first round appeal for the Westinghouse strikers”. He urged their continued cooperation “for the duration of the strike”.

### Minimum Wage Law

President Sam Kovenetsky advised the Board that from April 8 to 15 Congressional Hearings, under Senator Paul Douglas, will be held on labor’s demand for extension of coverage under the Fair Labor Standards (Minimum Wage and Hour) Act.

He announced that RWDSU President Max Greenberg’s testi-

mony was already being prepared, and that plans were being drawn for another huge labor delegation to the nation’s capital.

The President said, “Last Spring Local 1-S did an outstanding job and sent the largest single group in the fight for the \$1.25 minimum and inclusion of retail and department store workers. This year I would like to see more than one hundred of our members go down and fight for extension of the law. The National Retail Dry Goods Association is fighting tooth and nail against coverage for department store workers. Let’s be sure we do a job!”

### Tighten Up!

“Like freedom, our union-won gains are not things that belong to us by birth, but things which were fought for and have to be defended”, said President Kovenetsky.

Joining in the discussion, Jerry Harte (5th Floor), Helen Ruderman (White Plains), Avion Delagarde (Receiving), and Katherine Hallihan and Al Smith of Parkchester all urged development of a more intensive education program aimed at showing all members that present conditions and benefits were won by the efforts of the Union and are not products of Macy’s “generosity”.

### Trial Committee

Charges brought against HNP Frank Sasso, by MTF Thomas Gallagher, were sustained by the Trial Committee and resulted in a three month suspension from Union benefits by action of the Executive Board.

Sasso was charged with having reported Brother Gallagher to his Supervisor for alleged wrongdoings. This is in violation of Article XIV, Section (g) of the Union’s Constitution.

A two month suspension was meted out to Roylton Warren (31 Dept.) for taking his prob-

lems to management instead of his Steward or Floor Committee.

On the Trial Committee hearing the cases were Anne Berman, Madeline Lawder, Sylvia Temple, John Tercy and Augustine Tompkins.

### Anti-Discrimination

Reporting for the Anti-Discrimination Committee, Avion Delagarde called on the Board for help in guaranteeing against a repetition of the poor turnout at the meeting on February 17th with The Rev. Delaine.

Turning his attention to the national scene, he termed the law under which Birmingham, Alabama bus boycotters are being jailed “one which was originally aimed against the organization of unions, and one which can still be used for that purpose”.

### Political Action

PAC Chairman Charles Boyd attacked the “growing influence of the special privilege groups in both parties.

He termed the Goldwater Bill (aimed at barring all unions from any form of political action) “a major threat” that will leave the door open to only the high powered lobbyists. He urged action to see that the Goldwater Bill is not reported out of Committee.

### City CIO

Augustine Tompkins, Deby Valencia, Christian Ryan and Frank Milza were named to join Vice President Hoffstein, Harry Webster, Cathryn Hall, Jerry Harte, Ceil Curry and Charles Boyd as 1-S delegates to the City CIO Council.

Recently-elected Marty Lattarulo (Receiving) was named to replace Tony Gentile on the 1-S NEWS Editorial Board.

The resignation of John Witch (Controllers) for personal reasons, was accepted “with regret”.

## 1-S Camp Program in Full Swing; Applications Available, Going Fast

Summer camp openings and Friendly Town accommodations are available for the children of 1-S members who make application early, but they are going fast.

A recent meeting of representatives of unions participating in the program made it clear that there will be a greater demand for available openings than ever before.

A spokesman for the CIO’s Community Services Committee urged the unions to “help us make sure that it is the children who would not otherwise get out of

the city who get the first chance”.

Local 1-S will accept applications—available at the Union office—from all members. In establishing priority, consideration will be given to such factors as yearly income, number of dependents and other items which might normally limit vacation opportunities.

Get your application, by mail or in person, at the Union office. Then fill it out and return it, as quickly as possible, to:

Local 1-S Camp Program  
290 Seventh Avenue  
New York 1, New York

## LOCAL 1-S NEWS

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LOCAL 1-S DEPARTMENT STORE WORKERS UNION, RWDSU, AFL-CIO  
290 Seventh Avenue  
New York 1, N. Y.

President: Sam Kovenetsky

1st Vice Pres.: Philip Hoffstein 2nd Vice Pres.: William Atkinson

Editorial Board

Jerome Harte, Mary Boyd, Marty Lattarulo, Adam Graham, Ceil Curry

Editor: Dick Pastor

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## HELP!

LEGAL CLINIC  
SOCIAL SERVICE  
COMPENSATION AID

Free of Charge

at the

UNION OFFICE

Every Wednesday

From 5 to 7 P.M.





## Talking Shop

By Vice Presidents

Phil Hoffstein

and

Bill Atkinson

**WHEELOCK H. BINGHAM** (his friends call him "Bing") has announced once again that "company's coming." As a result, thousands of men and women who work as salespeople, clericals, receivers, packers etc., are supposed to frantically role up their sleeves and rid Macy's of its accumulated grit and grime from top to bottom.

**WE'RE AGAINST IT!** There was a time when Macy's had a full force of full-timers in the Housekeeping Department whose job it was to keep Macy's thoroughly clean every day of the year. But Macy's, in the unending search for ways and means to save money by shifting jobs onto the backs of already overburdened people, "re-organized" the Housekeeping group and now expects YOU to do the job.

Yes, we're against dirt. Nobody likes to work in a place that isn't clean. But we say that an annual scrubbing is not the answer to cleanliness! And we say further that Housekeeping is not the job for which most members of Local 1-S were hired.

**DON'T GET THE IDEA** that you should be relieved of any other responsibilities when you're up to your elbows in dust. Far from it! Last year's experience proved that Macy's still expects you to be presentable to any customer who walks into a selling department. They will still rate you on volume. They will still expect you to do everything you are normally expected to do, PLUS preparing for Mr. Bingham's white glove inspection.

Under these circumstances we can have only the highest praise and respect for those who refuse to participate in this Spring madness. And certainly the protests would be most effective if thousands of members would tell their Supervisors to call the Housekeeping Department whenever they want to pretty up for "company."

Perhaps the best time to make your feelings shown is *before* the company hands out its orders. If each department held a five minute meeting, either before or after work, and decided that they would prefer having professional housekeepers do the work, the Supervisor could be told, *in advance!*

Such meetings called by the Shop Stewards would enable them to truly speak for the members when they deliver such a decision to the Executive.

**MEMBERS OF 1-S HAVE PROVEN**, on numerous occasions, that they are cooperative and conscientious. And we do not think that a refusal to do Macy's dirty work will in any way detract from the fine record already established.

We believe that this business has gone far enough. That Macy's has already squeezed and squeezed—far more than they should have, and far more than is tolerable.

**WITH NEGOTIATIONS IN PROGRESS** it is possible that in those areas where the work has not yet been done this will become the first united way of showing Macy's where you stand. . . . Of showing the company that the line has been drawn. . . . Of saying once again that you are willing and anxious to do the job for which you have been hired, but that any Spring housecleaning you do will be at home!

Let's face it—this is not a question of principle for Macy's. It is a question of money! Not money for you, but more money for Macy's! They say, and we agree, that they are in business to make money. But as we understand it, they are supposed to make their money by selling merchandise, not by converting salespeople (and all others) into housekeepers.

Mr. Bingham wanted salespeople who 'could sell the chandeliers off the ceiling!' But now he wants you to wash the chandeliers!

Like Mr. Fischer at negotiations, Mr. Bingham also wants to have his cake and eat it. Macy's talks proudly of the 150,000 customers a day who come into the store. Mr. Bingham wants service for them, but he wants to be treated like "company" as he looks for dirt instead of ways and means of meeting the needs of the people as expressed in our negotiations demands

**MACY'S "COMPANY'S COMING" CAMPAIGN** is wrong and indefensible except from the point of the company's greed for every penny and every ounce of the workers' energy.

We don't object to former naval officer Bingham wanting things "ship-shape" in the store. We think he ought to do it the right way, though. And we think that if the members of Local 1-S tell it to him through their Supervisors, Mr. Bingham might be convinced that there are other, and better, ways to do the job!

Let the company come! Let the place shine! But let the right people do the job!



## Negotiators Report No Progress...

(Continued from page 1)  
sidered to be a part of their job should be changed."

The second Macy demand says that, "In order to meet changes in customer traffic which have occurred or may occur, add a provision that the Company shall have the right to change the weekly working schedules of part time employees by not more than one hour per day subject to appropriate notice to the affected employees."

The third Macy demand calls for a new method of figuring pro-rata vacation payment to straight commission salesclerks, and then adds: "Also revise the vacation eligibility provisions so that no employee shall be entitled to receive vacation benefits unless he

has worked a minimum of nine months during the vacation year."

The fourth and final Macy demand asks that a member who receives severance pay and is called back to his job should pay back to Macy's "any unexpired portion of the severance allowance."

They also want the contract to be changed "so that no employee shall receive more than one complete severance allowance in any 12 month period rather than the current calendar year limitation."

### Next Session

The next meeting of the Negotiating Committee with Mr. Fischer and his aides was a continuation of the company's efforts to establish its "right" to squeeze every last drop of blood, sweat and tears out of the people who do the work.

Early in the session Mr. Fischer had proclaimed that, "Negotiating doesn't mean that I have to give a damned thing!"

The company's use of "Shoppers" was under sharp Committee attack. Mr. Fischer replied that Macy's has the "right and obligation" to shop its sales force.

Macy's practice of assigning work normally done by Union members to outsiders, such as Marking, was under assault by the negotiators. Mr. Fischer said the company wants still more pre-marked merchandise "for the competitive advantage it gives us". He added that Macy's wants these advantages "wherever else they are possible".

### And Still More

As the Union continued to explore Macy's responsiveness to its demands affecting working conditions at meetings in March, Mr. Fischer declared that in the company's view it is "most expedient and most efficient" to have vendors take "visual" stock counts.

Vice President Bill Atkinson led the committee's denunciation of this as an "evasion of the contract provisions we have fought for and won".

Mr. Fischer, reducing to an absurdity the contract's prohibition against executives doing staff work, told President Kovenetsky that, "I know that technically I violate the contract when I do it, but I just can't walk by and not pick up a scrap of paper when I see it on the floor."

President Kovenetsky told him that "if that was the only trouble we had with the company we would have no complaints. But", he added, "there are eager beaver executives who do much more to violate the contract."

Debate ranged over such basic subjects as the loss of earnings when commission department merchandise is sold on Tables; overtime pay after eight hours of work by part-timers; the limiting of Saturday onlies to their basic schedule; severance pay for those leaving the job for personal reasons; extending the recall period to one year; and raising the super allowance to \$1.25.

To each of these, Mr. Fischer replied that they represented either unwarranted cost increases or unwarranted "restriction".

Finally, Mr. Fischer told the Committee to "hold onto your hats. Here's one I think we can agree on." And Macy's went on record in favor of paying for overtime cancelled by the company!

## HEALTH PLAN NOTE

If you plan to take a leave of absence (including maternity and military leave) for more than 30 days or if you leave the store and wish to continue your Health Plan coverage on a direct payment basis YOU MUST see the Local 1-S Health Plan Consultant at the Union office.

You are covered by The Health Plan only until the end of the month in which you leave the store, and have another 30 days within which to arrange for your direct payments.

If you, or a member of your family covered by the Health Plan enters the hospital you MUST call on the Union office for claim forms immediately on entering or as soon as possible thereafter.

Protect yourself — protect your family — protect your benefits. Be sure to come to the Union office on time.

## KOVENETSKY NOMINATED FOR RETAIL MINIMUM WAGE BOARD

### \$1.25 Goal

President Sam Kovenetsky has been nominated to a post on the New York State Wage Board which will start hearings soon on proposals to raise the minimum wage for workers in the department store and retail industry. The names of all candidates, representing labor, management and the public must be submitted to Governor Harriman by Industrial Commissioner Isador Lubin for his approval.

Former Supreme Court Justice Ferdinand Pecora is reported to have accepted the chairmanship of the panel.

### Present Wages

The present state minimum for retail workers is 75 cents an hour in New York City, 70 cents in Nassau and Westchester Counties and communities with populations of 10,000 or more, and 65 cents elsewhere.

Approximately 1,000,000 workers in the state are exempt from the federal minimum wage of \$1 an hour which became effective on March 1st. Wage panels, similar to the one set up for retailing, will hold hearings for workers in such industries as laundry, hotel and restaurant.

## Westinghouse...

(Continued from page 1)

starve the workers in submission—and that is where we, and the rest of labor come in!

"Because we cannot afford to allow any group of workers to be starved into submission and defeat, the Local 1-S Stewards voted to continue weekly collections for the Westinghouse strikers for the duration of the strike."

"Our goal is a contribution from each member each week for the duration. We are certain that if our members know the facts they will give wholeheartedly and regularly! . . .

"Hungry families are waiting for this money. Your prompt collection and delivery of your department's contributions will help ease the pain and pressure."

As this issue of the Local 1-S NEWS went to press an additional \$500 had been turned in, with sizeable sums reported on the way.

### Wide Appeal

Among the thousands who pitched in to help make the 1-S campaign a success was retired member Elfrieda Walmsley who put her dollar in an envelope with the note, "Here's my Westinghouse strike fund".

How about you!

Local 1-S, under the leadership of President Kovenetsky, sent the largest single group to Washington in 1955 to press for passage of a \$1.25 an hour minimum. As part of an RWDSU delegation led by President Max Greenberg, the group had considerable impact on the legislators.

As a result of massive pressure, Congress disregarded President Eisenhower's recommendation for a 90 cent base and enacted the federal minimum of \$1, but failed to extend coverage of the law to those not protected.

Labor will continue to press for the \$1.25, and delegations this Spring will again call on Congress to extend the law to millions now deprived of its benefits.

## 1-S'ers Donate \$1868 to 1956 March of Dimes

Members of Local 1-S have been credited with contributions adding up to \$1,868.33 to the 1956 March of Dimes. Of that amount, a check for \$241.21 was sent to the Westchester Chapter representing the collection made among Union members in the White Plains store.

Hailing the results of the drive, President Sam Kovenetsky said, "This fine collection is further proof of the fact that members of Local 1-S willingly and generously assume their full share of community responsibility."

"We know at first hand", he said, "the outstanding care stricken members of our Union have received from the March of Dimes. We are very proud to have helped finance the development and manufacture of the Salk vaccine—and we are proud to continue helping provide the medical care necessary for the rehabilitation of polio's victims."

From the March of Dimes came a hearty "Thank you" for a job well done.

**If Your Bill From Local 1-S Shows That You Only Owe \$1 For Your 1956 Subscription to the LOCAL 1-S NEWS PAY BY MAIL AND AVOID DELAY (Print your name and staff number clearly. Send check or money order.)**



# DO YOU KNOW THAT Frances Borges

(in Drugs...)

is one of the top Negro models in the country?

Frances Wallace Borges, Shop Steward on the Drug Wall, has been modelling since she was five years old. Her free lance modelling assignments are worked in to her very full schedule, which includes two late nights on the job and Friday night choir rehearsals at St. Marks Church, where she is the youngest member of the senior choir.

For close to four of the five years she has worked in the Herald Square store, Frances has been a Steward.

Despite her own heavy schedule, which includes the normal household chores on her day off, Frances enjoys her Steward's job "because I don't like to see anybody trampled on—which is what happens if you don't fight for your rights."

Frances, hired during the "price war" of 1951, came directly to the job from her home in Jacksonville, Florida, where her eight year old son Ernesto lives with her parents. She had been a housewife there, had never worked, never belonged to a union and hadn't particularly wanted to be a salesclerk.

She loves modelling and says that she would gladly make a career of it. "But", she adds, "It is a field that is still very limited for a Negro, and there is not enough work to justify cutting my ties with a steady job."

Just back from a four week fashion show in Florida—she used her parent's Jacksonville home as her 'headquarters'—Frances speaks glowingly of the way the Negroes are pressing their claim for equal rights as Americans. She says, "I am proud that my people are sticking together, and I'll do anything to help."

"Sticking together" is something that Frances carries over to her work for Local 1-S and to her family.

She was quick to see that unity held the key to victory in the long Westinghouse strike. She brought that message to her co-workers and won their complete support for the Union's collection.

She has three brothers, Coley, John and Austin, invites them to dinner regularly, and says her day would not be complete if she didn't get her phone call from Coley.

Frances loves golf, swimming and prizefights, because brother



Gorgeous Borges

Coley is a successful fighter himself, and played the part of Joe in the movie "The Joe Louis Story". Coley is now making a new picture, "Caribbe Gold", with Ethel Waters.

Looking to the future, Frances says that she would like very much to re-marry, be permanently reunited with son Ernesto and have more children. "But I don't want to rush into it", she says. "Life is very full and I'll bide my time until I'm sure."

## PHOENIX PREVIEW SCORES A HIT; UTA HAGEN STARS IN NEXT PLAY

True to its tradition, the Phoenix Theatre came up with another outstanding hit. Members of the Local 1-S Preview Party were on hand when the curtain went up on "Miss Julie" and rendered their verdict before the critics and first-nighters began their raves.

The next hit to be previewed at the Phoenix on Thursday evening, March 29th, is Turgenev's "A Month in the Country", starring Uta Hagen and directed by Michael Redgrave. Tickets, priced at \$1.15 for the best seats in the house, are now on sale at the Union office.

Past theatre parties have all been held on Friday evenings, but for reasons best known to the management of the Phoenix, the March premiere has been moved to Thursday, with Friday night's performance much more expensive.

### "Miss Julie" Reviewed

August Strindberg ruined the lives of the three women who married him and died in a Swedish lunatic asylum. This son of a servant woman who could never forget his humble origin ranks with Ibsen, Shaw, Chekhov and O'Neill among the masters of the modern theatre and the spirit of his genius soars through the turbulent scenes of his short play, "Miss Julie".

Strindberg finished the play in 1888 and called it a 'naturalistic tragedy'. The torment and degradation of the haughty young aristocrat passionately in love with his father's cynical valet is fascinating and fearful to watch.

In a long preface to the published version, Strindberg tried to explain the play and its characters. A single sentence of the play's dialogue, however, tells us more than the dozen pages of preface. Strindberg is all passion and fury as he probes with a surgeon's scalpel into the hands of the living characters he put on the stage. The picture is not very pretty, yet how revealing!

E. L. GRUBER

## 1-S Delegates to D.C. Civil Rights Parley to Report

Board member Harry Leibowitz and Anti-Discrimination Committee member Leonard Axelrod spent March 4, 5 and 6 in Washington, D.C. as delegates to the national Conference on Civil Rights sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

All members are invited to hear a report on the conference at the meeting of the Anti-Discrimination Committee on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 P.M. at the Union office.

## PERSONALS

FOR SALE—Chippendale walnut cocktail table with glass top. Practically new. 27½ x 17½ x 17. \$15. Phone ES 3-2333 after 7 PM.

FOR SALE—Girl's pink pickled pine bedroom set, 1 wooden closet, 1 gray dinette set. Very reasonable. Phone CL 9-3545 after 8 PM.

FOR SALE—1954 Pontiac, 2 door sedan, 2-tone green. Immaculately new. Only 8,500 miles. Call RA 8-1836 after 7 PM.

WANTED—Upright piano in good condition. Reasonable. Telephone FL 8-0951 after 6 PM.

FOR RENT—Lady would like to share apartment in Astoria with young woman. Phone YE 2-8769.

Personal ads for the Local 1-S NEWS must be received at the Union office by the 1st or 15th day of each month. Ads received on the 1st will appear in the issue dated the 15th. Those received on the 15th will appear in the issue dated the 1st of the following month. This is offered as a service to members of Local 1-S and there is no charge for personal ads.

**MEDICAL PLAN**—For the name and address of the doctor, dentist, optometrist or podiatrist nearest you CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540 or Associated Physicians Medical Group—BU 8-4210 (Night or Day). Complete schedule of fees available upon request.

**BLOOD BANK**—If you need blood from the Blood Bank CALL the Union Office—WA 4-4540.

## TO THE EDITOR

### DEEPLY DISTURBED

As a new member of the Anti-Discrimination Committee I was deeply disturbed by the proceedings of the Reverend Delaine meeting held on Friday, February 17th.

Not only was I disappointed by the poor attendance, but it was disquieting to hear some of the things expressed at this meeting, which, to my mind, had very little bearing on the purposes for which this meeting was called.

All things considered, it is apparent to me that this committee is not functioning in a manner which it should in view of the nature of its work. I joined this committee more than two months ago and have not, to this day, received one postcard, letter, message or contact on the job, concerning its activities. There is definitely something wrong here. This does not happen when a committee is functioning the way it should in the face of the alarming situation in the country today on the race question. I have discussed this with certain shop stewards on my floor and we have agreed to make inquiries about the functioning of this committee, and to propose that if those involved can't function, this committee should be turned over to others who can.

Now it is apparent that meetings such as the Rev. Delaine affair cannot be successfully put over

unless a lot of educational groundwork is carried out beforehand. It is not possible to whip up interest the last minute. This committee needs a program, and it apparently does not have one. Many questions on segregation and discrimination emerged from this meeting which were left hanging and were not answered. Many statements were made which were not challenged or debated. There is a lot of confusion in the minds of many people inside and outside the union which must be cleared up in a hurry. Therefore, to this end, I propose, the earliest possible date, a full meeting of this committee to go over the same ground again. I also propose that the same people who were present before be asked to attend this meeting and to raise the same questions so that some clarity can be arrived at. I also propose that a repeat program, including Rev. Delaine, be mapped out for a future date which can be more successful.

In the meantime, there are certain things I would like to know: What is the program of this committee? What is to be its scope? How does it plan to function?

Yours truly,  
Harold W. Cruse

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is *not* intended as an apology for the Anti-Discrimination Committee. It is true that the meet-

ing with Reverend Delaine clearly showed serious weaknesses.

It is equally true that no committee can successfully function with a small group of volunteers. In spite of repeated appeals, made at Divisional Meetings, General Membership meetings, and through the pages of the Local 1-S NEWS, there has been no significant increase in the number of people who are ready to give time to the developing and carrying out of a rounded program in the fight against discrimination.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st at 7 P.M. at the Union office. All members are invited and will be most welcome.



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or children  
under 18 . . .

or parents  
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